

Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 OES-03 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 OIC-02 /072 W

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P 140523Z FEB 75O

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2753

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 1703

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, WMO, SA, VS, UN

SUBJECT: PROPOSED "PRG" OBSERVER STATUS AT 7TH WMO CONGRESS

REF: A) GENEVA 546; B) STATE 22021; C) STATE 23468

1. REFS A AND B SET FORTH GENEVA AND DEPARTMENT'S VIEW THAT RESORT TO WMO REGULATION 65 BY GVN LIKELY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IN OUR EFFORT TO DEFEAT "PRG" INVITATION. THESE VIEWS WERE PASSED TO MFA FEB 1, AND WE UNDERSTAND MFA RECEIVED SIMILAR MESSAGE FROM GVN GENEVA REP LOI.

2. MFA DECIDED TO CONSULT LOI AGAIN AND REQUESTED FURTHER VIEWS FROM HIM PROBABLY INVOLVING FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH WMO SECRETARIAT. NO REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED SO FAR, AND A FOLLOW-UP WAS SENT FEB 12. MINISTER IS LIKELY TO FOLLOW LOI'S ADVICE WHEN IT IS RECEIVED, AND PRESUMABLY HE WILL MAINTAIN HIS EARLIER VIEW THAT GVN SHOULD NOT INSIST ON APPLICATION REGULATION 65.

3. OUR TALLY OF REPLIES RECEIVED INDICATES 35 VOTES AGAINST "PRG". WE CANNOT JUDGE FROM HERE WHETHER THIS IS SUFFICIENT TO ASSURE A BLOCKING THIRD, BUT WITH 140 WHO MEMBERS, PROBABLE LOBBYING ACTIVITIES BY THE OTHER SIDE, AND THE LIKELY TENDENCY OF SOME
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COUNTRIES TO SIMPLY VOTE IN FAVOR OF ALL PROPOSED OBSERVERS, IT

SEEMS TO US WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE TOO SANGUINE. ALSO, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS TO ATTAIN WELL OVER A THIRD AND EVEN A MAJORITY IF POSSIBLE. ANY DISCUSSIONS US MISSION GENEVA MAY HAVE WITH WMO SECRETARIAT PURSUANT TO REF C MAY CLARIFY SITUATION.

4. ACTION RECOMMENDED: THAT US MISSION GENEVA CONSULT WITH AMB LOI IN EFFORT TO NAIL DOWN GVN DECISION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE ON USE OF REGULATION 65. ASSUMING REQUEST IS WITHDRAWN, DEPARTMENT SHOQLD SEND FOLLOW-UP INSTRUCTIONS TO MISSIONS WHERE HOST GOVERNMENT MAY VOTE AGAINST "PRG" IN ORDER TO ENSURE AT LEAST A BLOCKING THIRD.
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Message Attributes

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